Serial No.: 09/516,849
Examiner: Anita Choudhary

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 1-27 and 38.

Please amend the claims follows:

Claim 28 (currently amended): A data communication switch, comprising:

    a first network interface for:

        receiving a plurality of packets from a first network, wherein one or more of the packets comprises an included priority;

        determining a first priority based on the included priority for each of the plurality of packets;

        appending a priority select indicator comprising one or more bits to the plurality of packets, wherein the priority select indicator is assigned a first value or a second value depending on a first packet field; and

        transmitting the plurality of packets;

    a second network interface operatively coupled to the first network interface for:

        receiving the plurality of packets;

        <u>selectively</u> prioritizing each of the one or more packets as a function of the value of the priority select indicator, wherein the packet is prioritized in accordance with:

            the first priority if the value of the priority select indicator is the first value;

            a second priority if the value of the priority select indicator is the second value; and

        transmitting the one or more packets to a second network.

Claim 29 (previously amended): The switch according to claim 28, wherein the included priority is a 802.1Q tag priority and the first priority is a regenerated 802.1Q tag priority.

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Claim 30 (previously amended): The method according to claim 28, wherein the first packet field is a packet source address.

Claim 31 (previously amended): The switch according claim 28, wherein the priority select indicator is removed from the one or more packets prior to transmitting to the second network.

Claim 32 (previously amended): The switch according to claim 28, wherein the second priority is determined from policy rules.

Claim 33 (currently amended): A selectable prioritization method for a data communication switch, comprising the steps of:

> receiving, on a first network interface, one or more packets, wherein each of the one or more packets comprise a first priority;

> generating a second priority associated with each of the one or more packets as a function of the respective first priority;

> appending the associated second priority to each of the one or more packets;

> appending a priority select indicator comprising one or more bits to each of the one or more packets based on a first value associated with each packet;

> selectively prioritizing each of the one or more packets as a function of the priority select indicator, wherein packets are prioritizes as a function of the second priority or a second value associated with each packet; and

> transmitting the one or more packets on a second network interface.

Claim 34 (previously amended): The method according to claim 33, wherein the first value is a packet source address.

Claim 35 (previously amended): The method according to claim 33, wherein the second value is a destination address.

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Claim 36 (previously amended): The method according to claim 33, wherein the first priority is an inbound 802.1Q tag priority.

Claim 37 (previously amended): The method according to claim 33, wherein the second priority associated with the one or more packets is a regenerated 802.1Q tag priority.

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